

An Interview with

Daphne Finely

March 30, 1980

Interviewed by

Ruby Mann

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

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AU 507  
OH 1979.08.05  
MHSOHP 1-05

Interviewee: Finely, Daphne  
Interviewer: Mann, Ruby

Title: An interview with Daphne Finely, March 30, 1980 / interviewed  
by Ruby Mann

Collection Title: Murrah High School Advanced History Class Oral History  
Project, Easter Flood of 1979

Scope Note: Murrah High School students, with assistance from the  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History, conducted oral  
history interviews with local citizens about the Easter Flood of  
1979. The interviews were conducted during the 1979-1980  
school year.

**AU 507**

MANN: My name is Ruby Mann and I'm speaking to Daphne Finley about the 1979 Easter flood. What effect did the flood have on your family?

FINLEY: Well, the flood affected us a lot. We had to apply for aid because our father was out of work. He couldn't get to work because the streets were flooded and the building got flooded too.

MANN: What effect did the flood have on you?

FINLEY: I couldn't go to school 'cause I had to stay home and try to help save some of my stuff and (inaudible) my work but I kind of...

MANN: What were your feelings about the flood?

FINLEY: I was mad for a while 'cause there was a lot of people saying if we had been warned earlier then we had we could have saved more of our stuff.

MANN: Who do you feel is responsible for the damages you received?

FINLEY: I feel some of the blame should go to the flood control center. They knew the water was rising but they waited 'til the last minute to tell us.

MANN: Are you still bitter because of this?

FINLEY: I'm not as bitter as I once was.

MANN: What was the extent of your damages?

FINLEY: Well, one of our cars got messed up, and some of our furniture, books, clothes, things like that.

MANN: What did you do after you were warned?

FINLEY: When we were warned, we tried to start to pack our stuff together to get out what we could, and to set things on top of each other so they wouldn't get wet.

MANN: You got to save most of your stuff then?

FINLEY: Well, we got to save a lot but the waters didn't get up that high like we heard in some places.

MANN: Where did you stay?

FINLEY: We stayed with some of our relatives.

MANN: Getting back to your father, how bad was the place (inaudible)?

FINLEY: It was messed up pretty bad. It was a very long time before it got completely cleaned up so he could go back to work.

MANN: Was the government aid you received enough for your family?

FINLEY: We managed to carry what we had.

MANN: Did you and your family ever think about moving?

FINLEY: Yeah we thought about it but we decided to stay here because we had put too much into our homes to leave it.

MANN: Okay, getting back to the warning, why do you think your family wasn't warned sooner?

FINLEY: I don't know.

MANN: You feel this was right?

FINLEY: No.

MANN: Why not?

FINLEY: If people were warned longer ahead of time, everyone wouldn't have lost as much as they did.

MANN: Okay, it's been almost a year now since the Easter flood of 1979, financially, is your family back to normal?

FINLEY: Yeah.

MANN: Is there anything else you would like to add?

FINLEY: Yeah, even though the flood commission or whoever was in charge didn't cause the flood directly, they were the cause of the damage to most of the homes of the flood victims.

MANN: And this concludes my interview about the Easter flood of '79.

**END OF RECORDING**